

**CITY OF CLEWISTON
Regular Commission Meeting
April 21, 2014**

The City of Clewiston City Commission held its regular Commission meeting in the City Hall Commission Chambers Monday, April 21, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Phillip Roland. Pastor Hicks gave the invocation and the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioners Present: Mayor Phillip Roland, Commissioner Mali Gardner, Commissioner Kristine Petersen, Commissioner James Pittman, and Commissioner Julio Rodriguez.

Personnel Present: City Manager Al Perry, Finance Director Ted Byrd, City Clerk Marilyn McCorvey, Library Director Ava Barrett, Recreation Director Lance Ramer, Public Works Director Sean Scheffler, Utilities Director Danny Williams, City Attorney Charles Schoech, and City Engineer Tommy Perry.

Visitors Present: Jerry Cochrane, Steve Conrad, Asa & Betty Godsey, John Hicks, Christine Howell, and Belinda Smith.

RECOGNITION OF LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS – JOANNE STILES, DIANA OSBORNE, WILMER FLORES, KAREN VELAZQUEZ, JENNA POWELL, JESSICA RIOS, PENGZHAO (MICHAEL) ZHU, JENNIFER LOCKMILLER, and WILLIAM TOWNSEND. – Library Director Barrett introduced each volunteer and thanked them for their work and Mayor Roland presented each volunteer with a Certificate of Appreciation. Director Barrett thanked the City and the citizens for their kindness. Mayor Roland thanked Director Barrett for the great job she has done since coming to Clewiston.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA - none

1. Consent Agenda

- A. City Commission Meeting Minutes – March 17, 2014*
- B. Approval of allocation of \$10,000 from fines and forfeitures for cameras at boat basin*
- C. Declaration of Surplus Library Inventory (Computers)*
- D. Proclamation - Mighty Eighth Air Force Historical Society*
- E. Proclamation – National Kids to Parks Day, May 17, 2014*
- F. Proclamation – Civility Month*

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Pittman, to approve the Consent Agenda. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 2. Bid Award for Lift Station Rebuild Block 385** – The City received five (5) bids for this project ranging from \$188,300 to 536,550. City Engineer Tommy Perry recommends awarding the bid to the low bidder, Foster Marine Contractors, Inc. The Commission questioned the disparity in the bids and City Engineer Perry stated the two lowest bids are about 10% apart and the third bid is not too far off. The other bids are out of line for the project. City Engineer Perry has spoken to Foster Marine Contractors, has a list of references, and feels comfortable awarding them the bid. Mr. Perry stated after the Notice to Proceed is issued, we expect Foster Marine to be on the job within two weeks. Mr. Perry stated there should be minimal effect on residents during the project.

Commissioner Pittman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Petersen, to award the Lift Station Rebuild Bid to the low bidder, Foster Marine Contractors, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$188,300.00. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays.

- 3. Proclamation - Make-A-Wish Southern Florida** - This proclamation recognizes the importance and impact of the Make-A-Wish group and designates May 19, 2014 as Make-A-Wish-Day. Representatives will be at the meeting. City Manager Perry read the proclamation. Mr. Thomas Falciglia of the Make-A-Wish organization thanked the Commission for their participation and stated that ten wishes have been granted in the Clewiston area. Mayor Roland presented Mr. Falciglia the proclamation.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Pittman, to approve the Make-A-Wish Southern Florida proclamation. Vote 5 years, 0 nays.

- 4. First Amendment to Interlocal Agreement Concerning Recreational Facilities, Programs and Services** – This amendment amends Section 5 of the agreement. City Manager Perry stated this amendment relates to the funds donated by USSC. City Attorney Schoech stated that he has reviewed the amendment and feels it is appropriate. Mr. Schoech stated there are two safeguards in place regarding the amendment which are the restricted gift agreement and State Statute.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Pittman, to approve the First Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement. Vote 5 years, 0 nays.

- 5. Discussion on City Manager Perry's Performance Evaluation.** – Commissioner Gardner stated the City Charter states that the City Manager should be evaluated on a yearly basis. She stated that she had discussed the evaluation with Mr. Perry and she rated his performance as meet or exceeds expectations. Commissioner Gardner stated that she felt an increase in pay, in line with other employees who meet or exceed expectations, should be discussed at budget time. Commissioner Petersen asked if all employees with the meets or exceeds expectations evaluations will be considered. Commissioner Petersen stated she did not do an evaluation but thanked City Manager Perry for his extraordinary patience. Commissioner Pittman stated he has talked to City Manager Perry and indicated that he has come a long way and he has many strengths, but still has a lot to learn. Commissioner Pittman stated Mr. Perry knows the community and has the ability to talk to everyone and we should consider an increase at budget time. Commissioner Rodriguez stated when City Manager Perry was hired he had no governmental experience, but we knew his qualifications and he has not been disappointed. Commissioner Rodriguez stated that Mr. Perry has met his expectations and he has told him things we need to work on in the future. Commissioner Rodriguez stated Mr. Perry is making a lot of changes which may not work out, but we need to give them a try. He too will support an increase in salary. Mayor Roland stated it has been great to watch Mr. Perry grow into the position. He stated that Mr. Perry has exceeded his expectations and he believes the City's employees deserve a raise the coming year. City Manager Perry stated it has been a tough year, but he is excited where we are going.
- 6. Departmental Monthly Reports** – Presented for information only.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - At this time, any person will be allowed to speak on any matter that pertains to City business.

Jerry Cochrane came forward to talk about East Rec. funding. Mr. Cochran stated our problem funding recreation is all over the State as we service people in the County as well as the City. Mr. Cochrane is concerned about the method the City is trying in place to pay for East Rec. Mr. Cochrane felt that reducing the millage will benefit the businesses, but not the homeowners. Mr. Cochrane urged the Commission to pay for recreation out of City millage, not an assessment and to reconsider the funding mechanism.

Steve Conrad came forward to speak about the golf course. Mr. Conrad stated the last four months at the course have been great with the addition of Robbie Rush. He stated the whole attitude at the golf course has changed. Mr. Conrad stated he would like for the course to keep track of where the players are coming from. He stated he feels the golf course is in bad shape right now and urged the Commission not to cut funds for maintenance at the course.

Pastor John Hicks, President of the Clewiston Ministerial Association, came forward to invite everyone to the National Day of Prayer on May 1 at noon. He stated the theme this year is "One Voice United in Prayer". Pastor Hicks stated the City has been blessed and we should pray for our leadership and City employees.

Electa Waddell and John Wellslager came to speak on behalf of the Clewiston Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Wellslager stated he had the vision for the photo book. He thanked the Commission for their support last year and stated there were over 200 photos entered last year. He stated this year they were trying to reach a little further to include all of Hendry County. Mr. Wellslager stated they have 11 of the 12 sponsors for the photo categories. He stated the Chamber will be reaching out for "presenting sponsors" this year. He stated the presenting

sponsorships will cost \$500 and will be responsible for voting for the book cover. Mayor Roland challenged the Chamber to come up with pictures of what Clewiston is really about. The Commission discussed the possibility for the sponsorship, and will discuss it further at the next meeting. Ms. Waddell stated the book is a work in progress and they are not limiting themselves at this point.

COMMENTS FROM CITY MANAGER – City Manager Perry stated the cameras at the Lake proved to Police that an incident that was claimed to have happened at the Lake did not occur. Mr. Perry stated the Utilities Department has been working diligently on electrical thefts and has caught several. We are still working on a day for the Commission to meet with Jim LaRue. Mr. Perry stated that Community Development Director Reese has assumed the duties of Fire Inspector, as well as Building Official. The Police Department will assume the code enforcement duties. Commissioner Pittman stated he is not totally on board with the changes. He is more concerned about the dual roles of the police officers interfering with prosecution. City Attorney Schoech stated there should be no adverse effects on either code enforcement or criminal prosecution. Commissioner Pittman stated he is also concerned about the County's funding of the Fire Department. City Manager Perry stated he is comfortable in saying the County will continue their support.

Commissioner Gardner made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Rodriguez, to ratify the changes to the Community Development Director duties and the Police Department assuming code enforcement. Vote 5 yeas, 0 nays.

COMMENTS FROM THE CITY COMMISSION – Commissioner Rodriguez stated we are going to have to make some changes going forward. He feels consolidating some departments is the thing to do and that we are heading in the right direction. Commissioner Rodriguez thanked the citizens for coming to the meetings and stated he is starting to have fun again as a Commissioner. Commissioner Gardner echoed Commissioner Rodriguez' comments and looks forward to the future. Commissioner Pittman asked for an update on the All Juice project and the golf course sign. City Manager Perry stated All Juice is waiting on a State inspector and City Engineer Tommy Perry stated he is working on the sign. City Engineer Perry stated he has met with SFWMD regarding the Lake level and he is working on it.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Phillip Roland, Mayor

Marilyn McCorvey, City Clerk